

# City of Carmel

www.carmel.in.gov

One Civic Square, Carmel, IN 46032

## *NEWS RELEASE*

**Date:** February 29, 2012  
**Contact:** Nancy Heck (317) 571-2494  
**Release:** Immediate

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### **Carmel Utilities Announce New Rate Structures**

**CARMEL, IN** – In order to make needed infrastructure improvements and to meet higher daily operating costs, the Carmel City Council recently approved changes to the water and sewer rates for Carmel Utilities. The new water rates went into effect December 2011 and new sewer rates went into effect February 2012. The cost of obtaining, treating and delivering water, and treating wastewater has been steadily rising due to increases in the market prices of the commodities, supplies and energy needed to operate, build and maintain our water and wastewater utilities.

Carmel's elected officials are mindful of the impact any rate change has on residents. Water rates have increased only two times in the last 26 years; once in 1994 and in 2008. Sewer rates have been changed only four times in the last 26 years, one of which was actually a rate reduction in 1999; the most recent increase was 2009. Even with the latest changes, Carmel's rates remain among the lowest in central Indiana and the Midwest.

The city takes great pride in providing an abundant supply of high quality drinking water and providing an award-winning wastewater treatment plant. Many improvements have been made and many innovative techniques have been implemented at the wastewater plant to keep it among the best run facilities in the country.

Please take time to familiarize yourself with the new rates below. A complete rates list is available on the City's website. [Click here to connect to the website.](#)

#### **Water Rate Comparisons with surrounding cities:**

For a home with a 5/8 inch meter for 8,000 gallons consumption(average household), the monthly bill will be \$25.53, an increase of \$ 4.14. See the comparison to surrounding cities below:

<u>City</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
<b>Carmel</b>	<b>\$25.53</b>
Fishers	\$38.70
Indianapolis	\$38.70
Noblesville (IN American)	\$50.29
Westfield	\$30.46
Zionsville (Citizens Water)	\$38.70

**Water Rate Comparisons with similar Midwestern cities:**

For a home with a 5/8 inch meter for 8,000 gallons consumption, the cost in similar Midwestern cities is:

<u>City</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
<b>Carmel</b>	<b>\$25.53</b>
Naperville, Illinois	\$43.81
Dublin, Ohio	\$46.36
Blue Ash, Ohio	\$49.48

**New Residential Water Rate Structure**

Even with expanding and improving our utility infrastructure, Carmel remains one of the lowest cost water providers. This is due to efficient management and ongoing maintenance of our water treatment and distribution system. The new residential rate structure will more fairly and equitably allocate the cost of service to all users.

The City has adopted a tiered rate structure which is to encourage water use efficiency. Under the new rate structure, the rate per gallon increases after the first 8,000 gallons per month. This new rate structure enables people who manage their water use efficiently to lessen the cost of their monthly water bill.

			<u>Rate per 100 Cubic Feet</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 Gallons</u>
	<u>Cubic Feet</u>	<u>Gallons</u>		
First	1,100	8,000	\$1.77	\$2.36
Next	400	3,000	2.21	2.95
Next	18,500+	139,000+	2.66	3.55

**Sewer Rate Comparisons with surrounding cities:**

For a home with a 5/8 inch meter for 6,000 gallons consumption (average residential monthly consumption), here is a central Indiana comparison:

<u>City</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
<b>Carmel</b>	<b>\$30.09</b>
Westfield	\$42.18
Zionsville	\$44.50
Fishers	\$34.63
Indianapolis	\$32.30
Noblesville	\$33.79

**Sewer Rate Comparisons with similar Midwestern cities:**

For a home with a 5/8 inch meter for 6,000 gallons consumption, here is a comparison with similar Midwestern cities:

<u>City</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
<b>Carmel</b>	<b>\$30.09</b>
Naperville, Illinois	\$23.00
Dublin, Ohio	\$34.88
Blue Ash, Ohio	\$48.41